

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

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NSC:MHIGGINS(SUBSTANCE)

S/S: MR. ORTIZ

C: MR. SHINN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 194251

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: BRITISH VIEWS ON OPTION III CONSULTATIONS

REFS: A. NATO 4134 B. LONDON 12430

SUMMARY: UK EMBASSY HAS PROPOSED TRILATERAL IN SECOND  
HALF OF SEPTEMBER. WE AGREED TRILATERAL WOULD BE USEFUL,  
BUT RESERVED ON DATE PENDING REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.  
BRITISH HAVE ASKED FOR FURTHER US INPUTS ON AIRCRAFT

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DEPLOYMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT INTENTIONS

IN NGA BEFORE MAKING DECISIONS ON US CONSTRAINTS POSITION.  
END SUMMARY.

1. WILBERFORCE, UK EMBASSY, CAME IN ON INSTRUCTIONS  
AUGUST 14 TO CONVEY LONDON'S VIEWS ON POINTS TO BE RESOLVED  
IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS BEFORE THE SPC OPTION III  
CONSULTATIONS ARE MORE ADVANCED.

2. WILBERFORCE SAID THE BRITISH WOULD NEED TO RECEIVE  
SATISFACTION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF OPTION III FOR THEIR  
JAGUAR REPLACEMENT PROGRAM BEFORE OFFICIALS COULD UNRESER-  
VEDLY RECOMMEND TO MINISTERS APPROVAL OF THE US APPROACH  
ON CEILINGS AND CONSTRAINTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE AGAIN  
ASKED US TO SUPPLY THE LATEST DETAILS OF OUR AIRCRAFT

DEPLOYMENT PLANS IN THE NGA. HE SAID UK WAS AGAIN  
ASKING THE FRG FOR SIMILAR INFORMATION. ONCE THE UK  
HAD THIS INFORMATION FROM BOTH THE US AND FRG, THE UK  
HOPED TO BE IN A POSITION TO EXPRESS FORMAL SUPPORT IN  
NATO FOR THE US POSITION ON ALLIED ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS.

3. WILBERFORCE NOTED THAT DIFFERENCES HAD APPARENTLY  
ARISEN DURING THE LAST TRILATERALS OVER THE US AND UK  
ASSESSMENTS OF THE DURATION OF THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN THE NGA. THE UK HOPED TO RECEIVE  
FURTHER US THOUGHTS ON SOVIET INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD  
AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. WITH THIS US CONTRIBUTION  
IN HAND, TOGETHER WITH PROMISED US VIEWS ON THE  
RECIPROCAL LIMITATIONS QUESTION, THE UK HOPED TO BE ABLE  
TO ENDORSE THE PRESENT US POSITION ON LIMITS ON SOVIET  
NUCLEAR SYSTEMS.

4. TURNING UNENTHUSIASTICALLY TO FORCE DEFINITIONS  
AND SERVICE SUBCEILINGS, AND SPECULATING THAT THIS  
MIGHT BE TICKELL'S LAST GASP, WILBERFORCE SAID THAT THE  
UK REGARDS THE MBFR WORKING GROUP REPORTS ON THESE TWO  
MATTERS AS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. THE UK BELIEVED THAT  
THE OUTCOMES OF THESE STUDIES WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE  
TO THE CONSULTATIONS. BOTH HAD A BEARING ON HOW THE  
COMMON CEILING IS TO BE DEFINED, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF  
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THE US PROPOSAL FOR A COMBINED GROUND/AIR CEILING.

5. WILBERFORCE SAID THE BRITISH FELT THAT THE US AIRCRAFT  
DEPLOYMENT AND SOVIET AIRCRAFT MODERNIZATION ISSUES COULD  
BE HANDLED BILATERALLY THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS. HOWEVER,  
THE UK FELT THAT ANOTHER TRILATERAL WOULD BE USEFUL AT A  
SLIGHTLY LATER STAGE, PERHAPS IN THE SECOND HALF OF  
SEPTEMBER, IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE STATE OF ALLIANCE

CONSULTATIONS (THE FRG IS BEING SIMILARLY APPROACHED IN BONN). THE TRILATERAL WOULD IN THE BRITISH VIEW TRY TO CLEAR UP POINTS OF DIFFERENCE ON THE DRAFT GUIDANCE AND SUPPLEMENTARY UNDERSTANDINGS, AND DEAL WITH RECIPROCAL LIMITS AND THE DEFINITION AND SUBCEILING QUESTIONS HE HAD JUST MENTIONED. (COMMENT: HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AS TO VENUE.)

6. WE TOLD WILBERFORCE WE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT A TRILATERAL WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT THAT WE COULD NOT TALK ABOUT A SPECIFIC DATE UNTIL OUR OWN REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES WAS COMPLETED. SISCO

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